



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

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**CRIMINAL COMPLAINT FILED AGAINST FIVE SAN ANTONIO RESIDENTS
IN UNDERCOVER DRUG BUST**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that a criminal complaint was filed this morning charging three men and two women with using, carrying, possessing and brandishing a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

Yesterday, agents with the Drug Enforcement Administration together with officers from the San Antonio Police Department arrested 20-year-old John Michael Pope, 21-year-old Christopher Sanchez, 30-year-old Gerardo Sanchez, 30-year-old Teresa Ortega and 21-year-old Nicole Koenig. According to the complaint, an undercover officer agreed to purchase two kilograms of cocaine from Teresa Ortega for \$31,000. Ortega, accompanied by Koenig, met with the undercover officer in a parking lot on the South side of San Antonio to make the exchange. At that time, the other defendants arrived on the scene in a Cadillac Escalade. Gerardo Sanchez, wearing a bullet-proof vest, pushed a handgun into the undercover officer's stomach and ordered him to sit in the passenger seat of the undercover officer's vehicle. Sanchez, then got behind the wheel of the vehicle and attempted to drive off. The undercover officer disarmed Sanchez and subsequently arrested him after Sanchez fled the scene on foot. John Michael Pope and Christopher Sanchez were detained in the Escalade where authorities discovered an assault rifle.

Each defendant remains in federal custody pending a detention hearing at 10:00am on Friday before United States Magistrate Judge Pam Mathy. Upon conviction, each defendant faces a minimum of seven years in federal prison and a maximum \$250,000 fine. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Joey Contreras.

A complaint is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence. The defendants are presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

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